

sub-specific name, when it radically disagrees with or is contradictory to the characters given in the diagnosis or description based upon it." This ruling, if strictly enforced, precludes the use of the name *leucogaster* for Baird's Wren. Under such circumstances, following the directions given in the Code, the bird must be "reintroduced into science under a new name, as a new species, and with a proper description." Mr. Ridgway (Auk, IV, 1887, 349) long ago maintained that Dr. Hartlaub described Baird's Wren, as *Thryothorus murinus*, in 1852 (Rev. et Mag. de Zool., 2d Sér., IV, 4),—twelve years before Baird called it *Thryothorus bewickii leucogaster* (Gld.), and twenty-eight years before Messrs. Salvini and Godman again introduced it as *Thryothorus bairdi*.

Baird's Wren has figured in both the first and second editions of the A. O. U. Check-List as *Thryothorus bewickii bairdi* (Salv. & Godm.). In the Eighth Supplement to the Check-List (Auk, XIV, 1897, 131), this name is changed to *T. b. leucogaster* Baird (*nec* Gould!) in compliance with the views of Dr. Coues (Auk, XIII, 1896, 345). It seems to me that Mr. Ridgway, although starting with the false premise that *Troglodytes leucogaster* Gld. equals *Cyphorhinus pusillus* Scl., arrived at the correct name for Baird's Wren when he called it *Thryothorus bewickii murinus* (Hartl.). If Mr. Ridgway's determination of *murinus* be questioned, it should be tested by an appeal to Dr. Hartlaub's types in the Museums of Bremen and Hamburg; if it prove erroneous, then the name *bairdi* Salv. & Godm. becomes available as the subspecific name for Baird's Wren. After what has been shown above concerning Baird's acquaintance with the type of *Troglodytes leucogaster* Gld., it seems no longer justifiable to identify it with *Cyphorhinus pusillus* Scl., which should now be known as *Hemiura pusilla* (Scl.), not *H. leucogastra* (Gld.).—WALTER FAXON, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

Rare Birds in the Vicinity of Philadelphia.¹—On Sept. 5, 1894, a specimen of *Contopus borealis* was secured near Holmesburg, Pa., and on May 18, 1895, a specimen of *Empidonax traillii alorum* was secured.

This is, I believe, the first definite record for the latter in this part of the State, as I am unable to find any in Stone's 'Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.'

While collecting in Tincum Township, Delaware Co., Pa., May 15, 1897, I secured a male *Piranga rubra*. This is the third record during the last twenty years for this species in this part of the State.—H. W. FOWLER, *Holmesburg, Philadelphia, Pa.*

Notes on Some Ontario Birds.—Occasionally Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*) has been reported in Lake Ontario late in the fall and in early winter; in fact this bird is not an infrequent visitor at Kingston in the

¹ Republished, with an addition and correction, from the July number of 'The Auk' (XIV, p. 326), where the authorship was accidentally credited to Mr. Witmer Stone.—EDD.

early winter. This summer three Murres were observed early in July. One was captured alive by Chas. M. Clarke on July 8, but died in a few days, and the others were found dead by Mr. Edwin Beaupre, Jr., and a friend, about a week after this date. All three birds died of starvation, without doubt.

The Knot (*Tringa canutus*), reported as very rare in Ontario, visits Kingston from time to time, and on June 2, 1897, Mr. Edwin Beaupre and I saw several on Amherst Island, one of which was secured. The one shot by Mr. Beaupre was with a large flock of Golden Plovers.

McIlwraith in his excellent work, 'Birds of Ontario,' reports the Bartramian Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) as seldom seen in Ontario. This bird has of late years taken possession of Simcoe Island, Wolfe Island, Amherst Island and many of the fields between Lansdowne and Napanee, a distance of fifty miles, and is found breeding freely. It is not disturbed by the farmers and appears to be steadily increasing in numbers.

The Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*), not reported in the east of Ontario, breeds at Kingston and Lansdowne. The Rev. C. J. Young has taken eggs at Lansdowne, and this year I found several pairs breeding in Cataragui Marsh. Have observed the bird regularly for many years.

The White-rumped Shrike reported as rare by McIlwraith in the east of Ontario, is abundant about Kingston, probably owing to the fact that several varieties of thorns are common here.—C. K. CLARKE, M.D., Kingston, Ontario, Can.

Rare Birds taken in Toronto and Vicinity.—*Ammodramus leconteii*. LECONTE'S SPARROW.—A male specimen was given to me as an Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow, taken May 5, 1897, in Toronto. This is the first one known to have been taken in Ontario.

Colymbus holboellii. HOLBELL'S GREBE.—Six specimens have been taken in Toronto between April 26 and May 1, three of which are now in my collection.

Lagopus lagopus. WILLOW PTARMIGAN.—While visiting a taxidermist shop in Toronto my attention was drawn to this specimen, which was taken in Whitby, thirty miles east of Toronto on May 15, 1897. Having a friend there I wrote to him, and he got for me the particulars about the bird, which is now in my collection. It is in its winter plumage, with the exception of a few brown feathers which are appearing about the head and neck. The tail-feathers have a slight brown tinge. Sex not given.

Ardetta neoxena. CORY'S LEAST BITTERN.—A male was taken in Toronto May 14 by G. Pearce. The plumage shows traces of albinistic markings, as follows: one white feather on the abdomen near the vent, and four white feathers on the inside of each tibia. It is now in my collection.

The female was taken in the same locality by the same person on June 30, 1897,—a very fine specimen with plumage normal and no traces of albinism.